

**Palmer, Steve**

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**From:** Heena Patel [heenap@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2012 12:27 PM  
**To:** generallawmail  
**Subject:** RE: Oposing Bill# 5021

# Oposing Bill# 5021

Hina R. Patel  
72 South Street  
Danbury, CT 06811

<h2>David vs. Goliath: Opposition to Bill No. 5021</h2>
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February 23, 2012

A lot of buzz has been generated around a proposed bill in Hartford. You may be aware of Bill No. 5021 and the fact that it will allow the sale of alcohol on Sunday. We are not against the idea of Sunday sales, however, Sunday sales is a veil being used to disguise parts of the legislation that threatens the survival of many small businesses across the state. In addition to Sunday sales this legislation will raise the number of allowed licenses per owner from 2 to 9. Bill No. 5021 will call for the elimination of state regulations mandating 1 package store permit per 2,500 residents. Connecticut's pricing guidelines will be completely restructured. Stores will not have the space nor money to purchase competitive brands, forcing them to only carry larger "national" brands.

There are currently 1228 retail package stores in the state. These are active, healthy businesses that pay employees, taxes and occupy commercial real estate. Each store has it's own, unique identity. Their diversity is reflective of the communities that they reside in and the customers that they serve. By changing the laws to better suit big-box chain stores, this bill threatens the existence of every package store currently in operation.

### ***How does this affect the consumer?***

The truth is, allowing 9 licenses per owner welcomes in big box retail chains to come into the state. Small businesses will not be able to compete. This means there will be fewer stores and less of a selection to choose from as well as losing the high touch personal service that you have come to expect when purchasing beer, wine, and spirits. Have you ever been to a Wal-Mart and left thinking, "Wow, that customer service was tremendous?"

### ***How does this affect our community?***

The loss of jobs in the "Mom and Pop" package stores is just the tip of the iceberg. Having

fewer stores to service means that distributors need to hire fewer drivers, fewer sales people, and fewer support staff. All these jobs will be lost. In total, an estimated 7,000 jobs will be lost in the state of Connecticut as a result of this legislation. Anyone can agree that at this point in time we cannot afford to lose any more jobs in our state.

### ***In Conclusion...***

We ask, why is it so imperative that the laws change so drastically and so quickly? We believe there is a way to modernize CT laws and cut costs to consumers. A bi-partisan committee should be formed to look at the industry as a whole. This committee would include input from the retail, wholesale and supplier sides of the industry. By studying surrounding state's laws and regulations, getting input from all factions of the existing industry we can alter the current laws and create a stronger, healthier liquor industry in Connecticut.

**We're asking for your help. You can lend your support by contacting the following people and asking them to help to keep us in business.**

#### **Senate:**

[Toni.Bucher@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Toni.Bucher@cga.ct.gov)

#### **Wilton**

[John.Hetherington@housegop.ct.gov](mailto:John.Hetherington@housegop.ct.gov)  
[Gail.lavielle@housegop.ct.gov](mailto:Gail.lavielle@housegop.ct.gov)

#### **Ridgfield**

[John.Frey@housegop.state.ct.us](mailto:John.Frey@housegop.state.ct.us)

#### **Weston:**

[John.McKinney@cga.ct.gov](mailto:John.McKinney@cga.ct.gov)  
[John.shaban@housegop.ct.gov](mailto:John.shaban@housegop.ct.gov)

#### **Danbury**

[michael.mclachlan@cga.ct.gov](mailto:michael.mclachlan@cga.ct.gov)  
[dan.carter@housegop.state.ct.us](mailto:dan.carter@housegop.state.ct.us)  
[joseph.taborsak@cga.ct.gov](mailto:joseph.taborsak@cga.ct.gov)

#### **General Law Committee:**

[Hector.Robles@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Hector.Robles@cga.ct.gov)  
[Kathy.Tallarita@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Kathy.Tallarita@cga.ct.gov)  
[Lonnie.Reed@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Lonnie.Reed@cga.ct.gov)  
[Frank.Nicastro@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Frank.Nicastro@cga.ct.gov)  
[Sandy.Nafis@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Sandy.Nafis@cga.ct.gov)  
[John.A.Kissel@cga.ct.gov](mailto:John.A.Kissel@cga.ct.gov)  
[Lou.Esposito@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Lou.Esposito@cga.ct.gov)  
[Anthony.DAmelio@housegop.ct.gov](mailto:Anthony.DAmelio@housegop.ct.gov)  
[Penny.Bacchioni@housegop.ct.gov](mailto:Penny.Bacchioni@housegop.ct.gov)  
[Bill.Aman@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Bill.Aman@cga.ct.gov)  
[Emil.Altobello@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Emil.Altobello@cga.ct.gov)  
[Rosa.Rebimbas@housegop.ct.gov](mailto:Rosa.Rebimbas@housegop.ct.gov)  
[Kevin.Witkos@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Kevin.Witkos@cga.ct.gov)  
[David.Baram@cga.ct.gov](mailto:David.Baram@cga.ct.gov)  
[Joseph.Taborsak@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Joseph.Taborsak@cga.ct.gov)

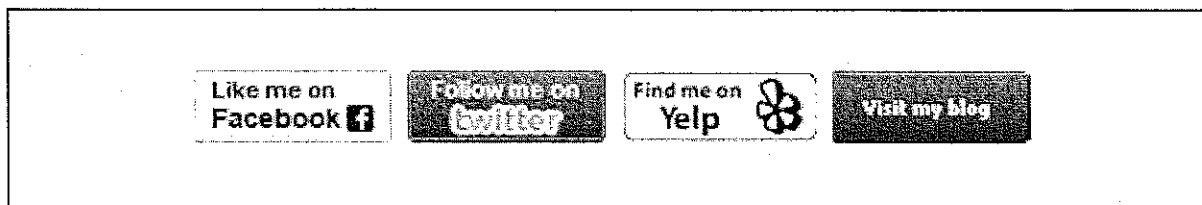
#### **Redding**

[dan.carter@housegop.state.ct.us](mailto:dan.carter@housegop.state.ct.us)  
[John.shaban@housegop.ct.gov](mailto:John.shaban@housegop.ct.gov)

#### **New Canaan:**

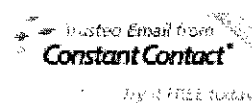
[Scott.frantz@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Scott.frantz@cga.ct.gov)  
[John.Hetherington@housegop.ct.gov](mailto:John.Hetherington@housegop.ct.gov)  
[William.Tong@cga.ct.gov](mailto:William.Tong@cga.ct.gov)

[bob.godfrey@cga.ct.gov](mailto:bob.godfrey@cga.ct.gov)  
[janice.giegler@housegop.ct.gov](mailto:janice.giegler@housegop.ct.gov)



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